

and when the latter birds have picked the bones of a carcass bare, the Bearded Vultures come down and, swallowing the smaller bones, carry off the larger into the air, and, letting them drop from a great height upon the rocks, devour the fragments at their leisure." Moreover, not content with dwelling upon the supposed rarity of this species in Spain, the Crown Prince goes on to say that "in all high mountains, whether situated in Central or Southern Europe, Northern Africa, or Central Asia, it is very much the reverse [of common];" yet, on p. 566, he tells us that it still inhabits the Retyezát, Transylvania, "in considerable numbers"! The statement that the Spanish "Stein" Eagle is characterized by "a white tail tipped with black" is quite misleading, and can only apply to immature examples, for in adult Golden Eagles from Spain the rectrices are just like those in Scottish specimens. The fact is that in Spain the Crown Prince was forced, like everyone else in that country, to try and find things out for himself; whereas on the Danube and throughout the Austro-Hungarian Empire he was naturally a great personage, for whom everything was, to use a vulgar phrase, "cut and dried" by obsequious proprietors and foresters. In saying this we do not for one moment wish to detract from his merits as a sportsman and a naturalist, for he was undoubtedly both. He never shunned hard work, and the reader will be struck by his wonderful energy, keen enjoyment of wild life and scenery, and his exuberant animal spirits, these features being especially noticeable in the descriptions of the visit to the Danube, the journey to the East, and the sketches from Hungary, Transylvania, &c. On the whole the book is very interesting, though the style is somewhat wordy and monotonous, a fault which the translator was unable to rectify. For the rest, Mr. Danford has performed his task with great ability and is entitled to the thanks of all true naturalists; the general style of the volume is admirable, and the type is bold and clear.

The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Edited by W. T. BLANFORD. *Fishes*, by FRANCIS DAY. 2 vols. 8vo. London: Taylor and Francis, 1889.

ABOUT a twelvemonth ago we noticed the commencement of this valuable series of Handbooks of Indian Zoology, on the publication of the first part of Dr. W. T. Blanford's account of Indian Mammalia. As then indicated the task of describing the Fishes had been entrusted to Dr. Francis Day, whose great illustrated work, 'The Fishes of India,' was already established as the authority on this part of the Fauna of our Eastern Empire, and in the course of the year which has just terminated the two volumes devoted to the class Pisces have made their appearance. These volumes must be regarded with a somewhat melancholy interest not only because they are the last records of a life, many years of which were zealously devoted to the study of the subjects of which they treat, but also from the consideration that the author did not even live to

witness the publication of the results of his labours. Before one half of the first volume had been printed Dr. Day was so ill that he could no longer take any part in seeing his work through the press, which was consequently thrown entirely upon the Editor; and he died within a very few days of the publication of the first volume.

So far as the book is concerned, however, under the careful and conscientious editorship of Dr. Blanford, intensified no doubt by the feeling that special care was requisite in dealing with the orphaned work of a deceased friend, it has probably suffered very little by the untimely death of its author. Of its interest to the zoologist there can be equally little doubt. It contains the characters of over 1400 species of Indian fishes*, and as these consist to a great extent of forms ranging on the one hand from the Red Sea and African coasts, and on the other from Japan and the Pacific, to the Indian region, it embraces a most interesting and important series of forms. From another point of view the great number of Indian freshwater fishes, many of them with marine affinities, first made known to European zoologists by Hamilton-Buchanan some seventy years ago, are of great interest, and to the number of these Dr. Day has by his own researches made considerable additions.

As to the mode in which the work has been carried out there is little to be said. From the great number of species to be described it was no doubt impossible to introduce statements as to their natural history, such as Dr. Blanford was able to incorporate in his account of the Indian Mammals, and indeed it is probable that in the case of Fishes there was comparatively little to be said. But the short descriptions seem to be carefully drawn up, the groups, families, genera, and species are tabulated throughout, and as a guide to the determination of the species here recorded the book leaves little or nothing to be desired.

There is, however, one point to which we would call attention, as we think it marks a serious defect in an otherwise excellent book. The synonymy of the species and genera is very imperfectly given, and in most cases the reader is referred for information upon this point to the author's 'Fishes of India.' To the collector wishing to ascertain the names of his specimens this is of little consequence, but to the student of Ichthyology it is a very different matter. For all the higher purposes of systematic Natural History a knowledge of synonyms is indispensable, and it will be a great disappointment to the student to find that to obtain this in the present case he must refer to another book which perhaps is not within his reach. Of many species with a very wide distribution it may safely be predicated that they have been several times described under different names by authors who have had to deal with collections from particular localities, and under such circumstances the absence of

* This number has been considerably increased by the numerous marine species noticed and described by Dr. Alcock in his interesting papers published in the last two numbers of this Journal.

all indications of the synonymy becomes a very serious defect. We do not mean that in a work like the present anything approaching a full synonymy could be given, but two or three of the synonyms of most importance, especially from a distributional point of view, would have added enormously to the value of the work.

Apart from this, however, the present work must be regarded as a most valuable contribution to the literature of Ichthyology. The species, as already stated, are all tabulated, and further they are described with quite sufficient detail to enable them to be readily identified; of a great number excellent woodcut figures are intercalated in the text, generally one or two under each genus; and each volume is provided with a full table of contents and a very complete index, which will render the book exceedingly easy to consult. The classification adopted differs somewhat as regards the sequence of the orders from that in general use, and indeed from that of the author's 'Fishes of India,' inasmuch as it commences with the Chondropterygii, which are directly followed by the Physostomi, and these by the Acanthopterygii, the remaining orders coming in the same sequence in both works. No reason is given for this change, which, however, is not of much consequence, as the book is not intended as a guide to Ichthyological classification.

In the conclusion of the Preface to the second volume the Editor informs us that a volume on Birds may very shortly be expected, and we hope that the concluding part of his own treatise on the Indian Mammalia will not be very long in making its appearance. The completion of this and of the other volumes on Birds and on the Reptiles and Batrachia will furnish students with a most valuable help in the study of the Vertebrata of the Indian region, and we can only repeat the hope that means may be found to enable the Invertebrate fauna to be treated in a somewhat similar manner. Of course the extent of the ground to be covered will always render it impossible to treat the groups of the Invertebrata in the style adopted in these volumes, but catalogues with tabulated characters would be of inestimable value to zoologists, and surely the men might be found to do the necessary work if only the authorities can see their way to carry out such a plan.

Bergens Museums Aarsberetning for 1888. Svo. Bergen, 1889.

THE Annual Report issued by the Museum at Bergen for the year 1888, besides the usual statements as to the state of progress of the establishment, and an obituary notice of Mr. A. Lorange, the late curator of its Antiquarian department, and a description with figures of some curious vessels, chiefly drinking-cups, formerly belonging to the guilds of Bergen but now deposited in the Museum, contains several articles of considerable interest to naturalists.

The first of these is a description by Dr. Danielssen of a new species of *Cerianthus*, which he names *C. borealis*, originally obtained